

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 006

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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CINCUSAFE

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SUBJ: CAGLAYANGIL NEWS CONFERENCE ON U.S. INSTALLATIONS/EMBARGO

ISSUE

REF: UNCLAS ANKARA 5519

1. FOREIGN MINISTER IHSAN SABRI CAGLAYANGIL'S NEWS
CONFERENCE THURSDAY (JULY 17) AND THE BEGINNING OF U.S.-
TURKISH NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FUTURE STATUS OF U.S. INSTALLATIONS
RECEIVED VERY HEAVY COVERAGE IN FRIDAY (JULY 18) EDITIONS
OF THE TURKISH PRESS.

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2. THE TONE OF EDITORIAL COMMENT IN TWO MAJOR DAILIES WAS ONE OF SCORN AND DISMAY. THUS CONSERVATIVE HURRIYET, TURKEY'S LARGEST DAILY, DECLARED: "THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING, DID NOT HAVE THE COURAGE TO PUT INTO EFFECT THE DECISION WHICH IT ANNOUNCED A MONTH AGO THROUGH ITS FOREIGN MINISTER." THE PAPER DERIDED CAGLAYANGIL'S STATEMENT THAT A NEED TO SETTLE CERTAIN "TECHNICALITIES" IN THE NEW TURCO-U.S. NEGOTIATIONS LED TO THE DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "PROVISIONAL STATUS" OF U.S. INSTALLATIONS. "THE REAL FACTOR IS THE HOPE THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE USA WILL ACCEPT A DECISION WHICH WILL LEAVE AT LEAST ARMS SALES TO TURKEY FREE. THE GOVERNMENT WAS AFRAID--YES, SIMPLY AFRAID-- THAT IF IT APPLIED THE PROVISIONAL STATUS, THE PROPOSAL (LIFTING THE EMBARGO) WOULD NOT PASS THE HOUSE. BUT ALSO, IT COULD NOT BE FRANK WITH ITS OWN PUBLIC OPINION AND ANNOUNCE THE FACTS."

3. LEFT-LIBERAL CUMHURIYET'S FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL WAS EVEN STRONGER: "ANKARA'S ATTITUDE CANNOT BE RECONCILED WITH INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, NOR INTERNATIONAL LAW NOR LOGIC. IT IS A DECISION-- OR RATHER AN INDECISIVENESS AND FEAR-- THAT WILL LOWER TURKEY'S PRESTIGE IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD AND MAKE HER A LAUGHINGSTOCK. WOULD THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT SENT A NOTE TO THE U.S. NOR GRANTED A WAITING PERIOD, NOR TAKEN ANY STEP AT ALL. HAD IT NOT, TURKEY WOULD NOT NOW HAVE FALLEN INTO THE SITUATION SHE HAS BEFORE FRIEND AND ENEMY ALIKE."

4. IN CONTRAST, THE SMALL-CIRCULATION PRO-DEMIREL ISTANBUL DAILY SON HAVADIS, IN A FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL, GAVE FULL SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION: "IN ITS SHORT PERIOD IN POWER, THE DANGERS OF THE EMBARGO DECISION WERE EXPLAINED. THE IMPORTANCE OF TURKISH-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP AND OF THE AGREEMENTS WAS REITERATED... THE TURKSIH GOVERNMENT WILL GRADUALLY APPLY MEASURES... THUS, OUR DEFENSE PROBLEMS WILL BE SOLVED ON THE ONE HAND, WHILE TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS ENTER A POSITIVE PHASE, THE FAULTY AND IRRATIONAL EMBARGO DECISION WILL BE RESCINDED AND THE COMMON DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS WILL ACQUIRE A NEW STATUS. BY REFRAINING FROM TAKING QUICK AND EMOTIONAL DECISIONS WHICH WOULD PUSH OUR COUNTRY INTO ISOLATION, PROPER UNCLASSIFIED

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STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN."

5. IN OTHER COMMENT, GUNAYDIN COLUMNIST TEOMAN EREL NOTED THAT THE "PROVISIONAL STATUS" HAD BEEN SAID BY THE GOVERNMENT TO BE READY FOR IMPLEMENTATION. HE ASSERTED THAT NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY CIRCLES ARE CLAIMING THAT THE SOFTENING OF THE TURKSIH STANCE IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE JUSTICE PARTY.

6. FRIDAY STORIES ON THE CAGLAYANGIL NEWS CONFERENCE AND THE
OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS WERE STRAIGHTFORWARD. THEY WERE COMPOSED
ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY OF VERFW#

OVXKE#AND

LISTS OF DELEGATES TO THE TALKS. BUT HEADLINE TREATMENT OFTEN
CARRIED THE EDITORIAL MESSAGE. HURRIYET'S SIX COLUMN FRONT
PAGE BANNER SAID/ "DECISION: WAITING". OPPOSITIONIST GUNAYDIN'S
HEADLINE: "WE INFORMED AMERICA THE TIME LIMIT HAD EXPIRED BUT
DEFERRED THE "PROVISIONAL STATUS"". FAR LEFT YENI ORTAM:
"FRONT GOVERNMENT GAVE THE USA ALL THE CONCESSIONS SHE ASKED".
IN CONTRAST, SON HAVADIS'S TOP FRONT PAGE BANNER SAID: "AMERICA
SUMMONED TO URGENT BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS". MODERATE LEFT MILLIYET
HEADLINED: "WE SUMMONED AMERICA TO NEGOTIATE".

7. FRIDAY EDITIONS REPORTED TO REACTION BY OPPOSITION POLITICAL
LEADERS EXCEPT FOR A STATEMENT BY MEHMET ALI AYBAR, CHAIRMAN OF
THE TINY, NEWLY FORMED SOCIALIST PARTY. AYBAR SAID THE
PRESENCE OF U.S. NUCLEAR ARMS MADE TURKEY A PRIME TARGET IN
THE EVENT OF WAR AND DEMANDED THAT ALL AMERICAN INSTALLATIONS
BE CLOSED. BOTH MILLIYET AND YENI ORTAM GAVE FRONT PAGE PLAY
TO THE STATEMENT.

8. IN RELATED COVERAGE, SEVERAL PAPERS, INCLUDING MILLIYET AND
GUNAYDIAN GAVE STRAIGHTFORWARD, FRONT PAGE TREATMENT TO PRESIDENT
FORD'S MEETING THURSDAY WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. CONSERVATIVE
TERCUMAN ALONE AMONG MAJOR DAILIES GAVE HEAVY FRONT PAGE PLAY
TO BRIEF REMARKS TO NEWSMEN THURSDAY BY PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL
ON HIS ARRIVAL IN ISTANBUL. TERCUMAN'S HEADLINE SAID: "DEMIREL:
TURKEY'S INTERESTS WILL BE PROTECTED BY A REALISTIC FOREIGN
POLICY". MILLIYET CARRIED A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF A MEETING
THURSDAY OF THE JUSTICE PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN WHICH
PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE TREND OF
TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS WAS IMPROVING. HE REPORTEDLY NOTED
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THAT TURKEY'S BASIC NEEDS WERE LESS FOR NEW WEAPONS THAN FOR
SPARE PARTS.

9. IN AN UNRELATED STORY, CUMHURIYET FOUND A NEW CONTEXT
IN WHICH TO INTRODUCE THE WORD "EMBARGO" IN ITS HEADLINES:
"PRESIDENT FORD'S REPRESENTATIVE ARRIVED IN ANKARA TO DISCUSS
THE TRADE EMBARGO TO BE APPLIED BY AMERICA TO TURKEY."
ACCORDING TO CUMHURIYET'S FRONT PAGE STORY, "MR. S. LANDE"
HAS COME TO ANKARA TO DISCUSS TURKEY'S TRADE PREFERENCE
ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE EEC AND TO DEMAND THE SAME PREFERENCES
FOR THE U.S. CUMHURIET SAID THAT THE U.S. HAD EARLIER
DELIVERED A NOTE TO TURKEY SAYING THAT UNLESS PREFERENCES
WERE GIVEN, TURKEY WOULD BE PLACED ON A LIST OF 21 COUNTRIES
TO WHICH A "COMMERCIAL EMBARGO" IS BEING APPLIED.

MACOMBER

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